

Show of Hands

Fairfax County Public Library Volunteer Newsletter



Winter 2006-2007

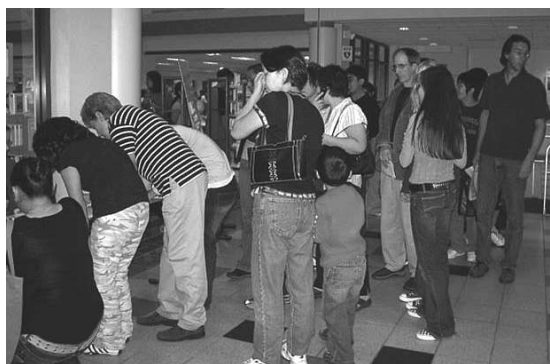
"It was a big hit for those seeking interesting service projects. Many signed up for volunteer programs on the spot."

– Mary Alice Giarda

Attendees at the Pohick Regional Library's teen volunteer fair on October 5 talk with Dan Schwartz from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. ▼



Teens line up to register for the volunteer fair at the George Mason Regional Library on October 3. ▼



Teen Fairs Attract a Crowd

More than 600 teens, plus many of their parents, attended teen volunteer fairs at four library branches in October. The fairs help middle and high school students explore volunteer opportunities in their local communities.

"A great time was had by all," said **Linda Vandenakker**, who – along with coworkers **Jackie Davis** and **Martha Pennington** – organized the October 3, 2006 fair at the George Mason Regional Library in Annandale where 263 teens and adults checked out volunteer opportunities publicized in the branch's meeting room. Fifteen organizations sent representatives or had handouts on display, including the Clean Fairfax Council, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Lincolnia Adult Day Health Care Center and the Huntington's Disease Society of America. Among those who assisted at the event were teen volunteers **Agness Kim** and **Kelly Yoo**.

On October 5, the Pohick Regional Library in Burke hosted 169 teens at their volunteer fair. "It was a big hit for those seeking interesting service projects," said **Mary Alice Giarda**, who coordinated the Pohick event. "Many signed up for volunteer programs on the spot." Twelve organizations were represented, including Lake Accotink Park, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the Alzheimer's Family Day Care Center and more. Long-time Teen Advisory Board members **Daniella Eguiguren**, **Claire Tuley** and **Katy Egan** helped register attendees.

On October 7, a total of 161 teens and adults gathered in the meeting room at the Thomas Jefferson Library in Falls Church. They talked with representatives or picked up hand-outs from eight different organizations, including the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Fairfax Office of Partnerships and Higher Horizons. "Students came from schools all over the area," said **Irene Moose**, who headed the branch's fair.

More than 100 teens, as well as parents, explored volunteer opportunities on October 14 at the Centreville Regional Library. "[The] teens got the chance to really talk to the groups that were here, and I'm sure these groups will benefit from attending the fair," said **Leslie McDunn**, who coordinated the effort. Seven organizations set up displays at the fair, including Earth Sangha, the Computer Learning Centers Partnership, Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding and more.

At several branches teen volunteers stuffed a "goodie" bag for each attendee with a mood pencil, bookmark and copy of the library's calendar of events, *This Month*.

VolunteerFest® at the Library

Volunteers planted bulbs, dusted shelves, polished wood display cases and helped organize book collections at six library branches during VolunteerFest® on October 28, 2006. Sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax, VolunteerFest® is an annual event held in conjunction with the national "Make a Difference Day."

More than 60 volunteers donated their time at the Martha Washington Library and John Marshall Library branches in Alexandria; the Woodrow Wilson Library and the Thomas Jefferson Library branches in Falls Church; the Patrick Henry Library in Vienna; and the Reston Regional Library.

At the Martha Washington Library, a group of 22 students and three advisors from Mt. Vernon High School, dubbing themselves "The Major Volunteers" after the school's nickname, helped beautify "Martha's Garden." They worked under the guidance of master gardener and volunteer **Pat Henley**. Other projects included putting books in order on the shelves and spray painting two display cases.

Over at the John Marshall Library, a group from Capital One was among 14 volunteers who planted 200 bulbs to help landscape the branch. Master gardener and volunteer **Carol Dickerson** coordinated the effort. Several teens dusted the top of all the branch's book shelves and applied Murphy's Oil Soap to some wooden furniture, brightening the branch.

At the Patrick Henry Library, seven volunteers from the consulting firm ICF International performed an array of tasks, from picking up trash from the grounds to helping the branch get ready for its book sale. The Friends of the Patrick Henry Library gave each of the volunteers a coupon for a free book from the upcoming sale.

At the Thomas Jefferson Library, several volunteers from the financial firm Deloitte & Touche, LLP helped with fall clean-up activities, including gathering 20 bags of magnolia leaves and other debris from the branch's native plants area, as well as gathering books for customers from the "on hold" list. Six volunteers at the Reston Regional Library helped shift books in the children's area, cleaned display cases, and helped organize the children's supply closets.

At the Woodrow Wilson Library, six volunteers completed a major project removing each of the picture books from the shelves, cleaning and then reshelving them. At each of the branches, staff and/or Friends groups provided refreshments for their dedicated crews. Thanks to VolunteerFest®, Volunteer Fairfax and all those who donated their time!



Capital One volunteer Betsy Ebersole and master gardener Carol Dickerson discuss the landscaping project as teen volunteer Aimal Arsalla and another Capital One volunteer Liyun Ma plant bulbs at the John Marshall Library during VolunteerFest® on October 28.



Scholarships for Volunteers

Training is not just for staff. Volunteers who would like to attend a class or seminar related to their volunteer work can apply for a scholarship from the Fairfax County Public Library Foundation, Inc. The next deadline for applications is December 15, 2006.

The Library Foundation's Friends Scholarship Fund provides several scholarships a year ranging from \$150 to \$750 to support the continuing education of volunteers and staff of the Fairfax County Public Library.

Scholarships may be used for registration, travel and related expenses to attend seminars, conferences, lectures, meetings, adult education classes or college and university classes (when not enrolled in a formal degree program). Attendance at such events must benefit the library in a demonstrable fashion.

Volunteers are encouraged to apply! For more information and forms, please visit the Fairfax County Public Library Foundation's Web site at www.FCPLfoundation.org. You can contact the foundation by phone at 703-324-8300; or e-mail info@FCPLfoundation.org.

Beyond Bloomingdale's

Since January 2006, a group of Tysons Corner Center employees have trekked several miles east down Route 7 to volunteer at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library. Tysons Corner Center, which is owned by the Macerich Company, encourages its employees to donate several hours each month.

The last Wednesday of each month an enthusiastic crew arrives at the branch to offer their services. The team has been involved in several projects, including shelf-reading, moving the children's book section, finding items for customers from the branch's "on hold" list, and landscaping. They even donated a new picnic table, made new benches and planted hostas in the branch's memorial garden.

"We're grateful and impressed by all who have come to donate their time," says **Linda Prante**, volunteer coordinator at the branch. "We're glad they chose our library this year."

But the benefits are not one-sided. "Not only has this allowed our employees the chance to give back to the community, we have found it is a great team-building endeavor," says Christie Morgan, assistant marketing manager at Tysons Corner Center, who coordinates the effort.



A crew of volunteers from the Tysons Corner Center display thumbs up after one of their monthly visits to the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library.



Lexi Moutafakis, a volunteer at the Chantilly Regional Library, attended the Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute.

Congratulations, Lexi!

Lexi Moutafakis, a teen volunteer at the Chantilly Regional Library, was chosen to participate in the Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute. Lexi, a high school sophomore who has been volunteering at the branch since sixth grade, was among 25 students who took part in the five-day institute sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax. Librarian **Shannon Seglin**, a Young Adult Specialist at the branch, recommended Lexi for the institute.

The purpose of the institute was to teach leadership and organizational skills necessary for the success of a community service project, and to plan a project for VolunteerFest® on October 28. Lexi's group chose to work at the Greenspring Retirement Community.

"It was the first time I have worked with elderly individuals and it was great to experience a completely different aspect of volunteering," Lexi says.

At the Chantilly Regional Library, Lexi helps with children's programs, checking in attendees and keeping events organized. She also sorts book carts, and says her favorite task is "weeding," removing books from shelves that have not been checked out over a long period of time.

"I volunteer because I love the feeling of giving back to the community," she says. "Reading is one of my favorite activities, which is why I initially got involved through the library. Anyone can volunteer, which is what makes volunteering so great."

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Published quarterly
Volunteer Newsletter of the Fairfax
County Public Library
12000 Government Center Parkway
Suite 324
Fairfax, VA 22035-0059

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Volunteer Opportunities

The Fairfax County Public Library is recruiting volunteers. Please help the agency advertise its opportunities by clipping this list and sharing it with friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, workplace volunteer programs, schools, clubs or houses of worship – wherever someone may be able to help.

Winter 2006 - 2007

Annandale

Teach MS Office Suite at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Tpk. Adults. 703-256-3800;
Nancy.Ehlke@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Burke

Adopt the Library Grounds – volunteers are needed at the Pohick Regional Library to keep the area free of litter and debris. Contact Florence Whipple at 703-644-7333, ext. 206.

Chantilly

Work behind the scenes and volunteer with the library's Interlibrary Loan Office. Help open incoming packages, file, perform general office duties. Hours/days flexible, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. M-F. Four-month commitment. Technical Operations at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Rd. 703-222-3124;
Susan.Bleistein@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Assist the library's Receiving Department. Pull order slips from file drawers to match the packing list on large orders; unpack orders and match all the same copies together; confirm the packing list against items received; possibly sort orders and load boxes onto pallets; pack books for outgoing deliveries. Must be able to lift up to 50 lbs.; be detail oriented and able to work independently. Hours/days flexible, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. M-F. Four-month commitment. Technical Operations at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Rd.; 703-222-3130;
Billie.McGhee@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax

Check books in and out at Access Services, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Ctr. Pkwy., Suite 123. Requires computer skills. Must be available during weekday daytime hours. Adults. 703-324-8380;
Beena.Pandey@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Falls Church

Teach MS Word to eager students on Saturdays at the Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Dr. Class size is five students. Materials and curriculum provided. It's a great opportunity to make a difference in someone's life and gain teaching experience. Time commitment negotiable, between 2.5-8 hours per month. Requires advanced knowledge of MS Word. Good interpersonal and communication skills a must. Dependability and a lot of patience. 703-820-8774;
Mohammed.Esslami@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Springfield

Offer computer instruction at the Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St. Adults. 703-451-8055
Jerry.Herrera@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Many branches also seek volunteers to organize shelves (ages 12 and up, or as a family); help the children's department by preparing program materials (ages 14 and up); check in books (adults); or, with an MLS degree, provide support for the information department in providing reference service.

Training is available for all positions. For information, contact Kate.Wanderer@fairfaxcounty.gov; 703-324-8332. To visit the volunteer section of the library's Web site, or to apply online, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library and click on "Do You Know...How to Volunteer at the Library?"



Show of Hands is published by the Fairfax County Public Library, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 324, Fairfax, VA 22035, 703-324-3100. Contact the Director of Volunteer Programs, Kate Wanderer, at 703-324-8332 or kate.wanderer@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit the library's Web site at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library



A publication of Fairfax County, Virginia

♿ Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request.
Call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703- 324-8365.

Printed November 2006